6 Strategies to Tackle Your Admissions Office Staffing Challenges

The Great Resignation has hit colleges and universities across the country hard, with nearly universal impact on admissions offices. In the face of so many challenges, enrollment leaders can feel paralyzed about next steps in tackling high turnover, low retention, and a wave of vacant positions. This infographic provides a framework for implementing the solutions covered in EAB’s recent white paper, Admissions Office Staffing in a Volatile Labor Market. Read on to learn more about what you can do right now to drive immediate impact, as well as efforts to address staffing challenges that span six months to a year ahead.

Six categories of solutions

- Cut your staff’s workload down to size
- Maximize flexible work options
- Ensure appropriate compensation
- Create an engaging work environment
- Ramp up staff recruitment
- Optimize your org structure

Tactics for enrollment leaders

**Actions to Take Right Away**

- Cut the least productive activities from your staff’s workload
- Hire outside help
- Maximize flexible-work options
- Deploy recruitment and retention bonuses
- Intensify morale-building efforts
- Revise copy used in job postings and other staff recruitment communications
- Take the initiative in sourcing candidates

**6-Month-Plus Initiatives**

- Launch larger and more complex outsourcing
- Lobby your organization for higher pay
- Increase options for staff specialization and skills development
- Build out a more robust recruitment infrastructure, including web-based resources
- Establish partnership required to maximize the impact of your tuition-remission benefits

**One Year and Longer Initiatives**

- Implement longer-term, department-based, compensation-boosting strategies
- Implement retention strategies targeting senior staff
- Beef up your sub-entry-level ranks
- Implement improved career paths

Insights from the research

- 74% of employees today report preferring a hybrid or full-time remote position, but only 11% of university presidents say that more than half of staff will be permitted to work remotely at least two days/week.
- Failure to recognize employee performance is 2.9x more likely to cause staff to quit versus compensation.
- Of retirement-aged individuals, 46% do not cite being ready to stop working as a leading cause of quitting.